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GREAT TRIUMPH OF THE AMERICAN ARMS.

Since our last publication we have received the news of a victory which has shed a crowning lustre on the military annals of our country. The fortified city of Vera Cruz and the Castle of San Juan d'Ulva, one of the strongest fortresses in the world, have surrendered to the American forces under Major General WINFIELD SCOTT. Although the character of that veteran and distinguished commander, the strength and good appointment of his forces, and the admirable judgment, combination, and vigor with which his preliminary measures had been taken, had inspired the strongest hopes of his ultimate success, yet we were hardly prepared for a triumph so prompt, so brilliant, so complete, and, above all, with so little sacrifice of life on our side. This last circumstance makes the event preeminently honorable and doubly welcome to us. But great we are sorry to learn, was the carnage in the ill-fated city. This terrible carnage Gen. Scott, with that humanity which is so distinguishing and bright a trait in his character, sought in vain to avoid, and gladly arrested the first moment that the enemy gave him the power to do so. The public press rings with praises of this signal victory, and of the skill and courage by which it has been achieved. Party enmity itself is forgotten in admiration of those high attributes of judgment, perseverance, and valor in the veteran commander whose youthful sword gave victory to the arms of his country thirty-three years ago, and whose life of service is now crowned with an achievement of such surpassing splendor. From the comments of the press we will make but a single extract, and that from the New York Evening Post, (for such is the rapidity with which science has furnished the means of transmitting intelligence that we have had the news of this important event already returned to us from that city.) The Post, with great justice and appropriateness, remarks as follows:

"The more we look into these perfect details, so much the more signal and brilliant the achievement appears. If we take into consideration the quiet preparation and equipment of this powerful fleet and army; their almost simultaneous arrival from different quarters at the seat of action; the skillful distribution of twelve thousand men without the smallest accident; the investment of the city, and the speedy surrender of one of the strongest castles in the world to our forces, which had lost only sixty-five men, the enterprise from first to last will stand forth in the history of modern nations unrivaled in the skillfulness of its management or the completeness of its success."

Instead of crowding our paper with all the official papers relating to this brilliant achievement which the Department has laid before the public, we select only such portion of them as give all the material facts of the bombardment, and the Terms of Capitulation; placing first in order, however, a brief summary of the operations that led to the results which these papers communicate. We deem it a proper introduction to them, for which "A Friend" who participated in the siege has placed us under obligations:

On the 9th of March the troops were disembarked by the navy, four thousand being thrown on shore at the first trip, which formed immediately, and drove in the light troops and pickets of the enemy, and took possession of a magazine and the hills around Vera Cruz.

On the 13th the investment was completed, and two mortars landed.

On the 17th ten or twelve more mortars were landed.

On the 22d the city was summoned to surrender at 2 o'clock P. M.; and, on refusal, a fire was opened from seven mortars, which was afterwards increased to nine.

On the 24th the navy, having landed a battery from the ships of three 32-pounders and three 68-pounder Paixhans guns, opened their fire in the morning. The fire of this battery, from its superior weight of metal and the destruction it caused, drew the concentrated fire of five of the enemy's batteries on it, but without effect. It silenced three forts, demolishing two of them entirely. It was manned and worked during the whole time by the officers and seamen of the ships.

On the 25th a battery of four 24-pounders and two 8-inch howitzers opened fire.

On the 26th the enemy commenced negotiations for surrender.

On the 29th possession was taken of the city of Vera Cruz and Castle of San Juan d'Ulva, the enemy marching out and laying down their arms to the combined forces of the army and navy. The American flag hoisted in the town and castle, and saluted by the troops and ships.

The number of prisoners had not been ascertained, but was estimated at 4,000, comprising, it is supposed, some of the enemy's best troops and many of their officers. The number of officers in the city and castle is supposed to have been 5 generals, 18 colonels, 37 lieutenant colonels, 5 majors, 90 captains, and 180 lieutenants.

During the sixteen days intervening between the disembarkation and the commencement of negotiations, there were five days of violent storms, in which all landing of stores, &c. were interrupted entirely; and during the seven days of open trenches there were two days and nights in which it was impossible to undertake any new works, or even, by clearing the trenches and batteries of large quantities of drift sand, to arrest the accumulating damage.

Our total loss in killed and wounded, from the 9th to the 29th of March, is sixty-five; of whom fourteen were of the Navy, engaged in serving a shore battery, and fifty-one of the Army.

The officers killed are, Captain John R. Vinton, 2d artillery; Captain William Alburtt, 2d infantry; Middleman Thomas B. Shubrick, navy.

The officers wounded are, Lieutenant Colonel Dickinson, South Carolina volunteers, Lieut. Augustus S. Baldwin, navy, slightly; Lieut. Deloier Davidson, 2d infantry, slightly; Lieut. Lewis Nell, 4th dragoons, severely—all doing well.

From the 13th to the 18th, before our fire was opened, all the work done (mounting guns, making trenches, &c.) was performed under a heavy fire of shot and shells from the castle. On the 26th there was a heavy mortar, in which twenty-six vessels went on shore, and several had to cut away their masts. Those which went ashore, so far as regards the vessels and their cargoes of Government stores, are almost all total losses. Two that were wrecked to the windward of the castle are said to have lost all hands.

DESPATCHES FROM GEN. SCOTT.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,

Camp Washington, before Vera Cruz,

March 23, 1847.

Sir: Yesterday, seven of our ten 10-inch mortars being in battery, and the laborers for planting the remainder of our heavy metal being in progress, I addressed, at 2 o'clock P.

M., a summons to the Governor of Vera Cruz, and, within the two hours limited by the bearer of the flag, received the Governor's answer. Copies of the two papers (marked respectively A and B) are herewith enclosed.

It will be perceived that the Governor, who turns out in the person of a bold, brave, and intrepid man, the plain terms of the summons, to suppose me to have demanded the surrender of the castle and of the city, when, in fact, from the non-arrival of our heavy metal (principally mortars) I was in no condition to threaten the former.

On the return of the flag with that reply, I at once ordered the seven mortars in battery to open upon the city. In a short time the smoke of the guns, and the firing of four 24-pounders and five howitzers—according to previous arrangement with him, approached the city within about a mile and an eighth, whence, being partially covered from the castle—an essential condition to their safety—they also opened a brisk fire upon the city. This has been continued unintermittently, by the mortars, and only with a few intermissions by the vessels, up to nine o'clock this morning, when the Commodore very properly called them off from a position too dangerously assumed.

Our three remaining mortars are now (12 o'clock M.) in battery, and the whole ten in activity. To-morrow, early, if the city should continue obstinate, batteries Nos. 4 and 5 will be ready to open. That of No. 4 consists of four 24-pounders and two 8-inch Paixhans guns; and No. 5 (naval battery) of three 32-pounders and three 8-inch Paixhans—the guns, officers, and sailors landed from the squadron—our friends of the navy being unflinching in their zealous co-operation, in every mode and form.

As far as we know, our operations up to this time have been highly effective—particularly from the batteries of 10-inch mortars, planted at about eight hundred yards from the city. Including the preparation and defence of the batteries from the beginning—now many days—and notwithstanding the heavy fire of the enemy from the city and castle—we have only had four or five men wounded, and one officer and one man killed or near the trenches. That officer was Capt. John R. Vinton, of the United States 3d Artillery, one of the most talented, accomplished, and effective members of the army, and who was highly distinguished in the brilliant operations at Monterey. He fell last evening in the trenches, where he was on duty as field and commanding officer, universally regretted. I have just attended his honorable remains to the city, in full view of the enemy and within reach of his guns.

Thirteen of the long-needed mortars—leaving twenty seven, besides heavy guns, behind—have arrived, and two of them landed. A heavy mortar then set in (at meridian) that stopped that operation, and also the landing of shells. Hence the fire of our mortar batteries has been slackened since two o'clock to-day, and cannot be revived until we shall again have a smooth sea. In the mean time I shall leave this report open for journalizing events that may occur up to the departure of the steam ship of war the Princeton, with Commodore Conner, who, I learn, expects to leave the anchorage off Sacrificos for the United States the 25th instant.

March 24.—The storm having subsided in the night, we commenced this forenoon, as soon as the sea became a little smooth, to land shot, shells, and mortars.

The naval battery, No. 5, was opened with great activity under Captain Aulick, the second in rank of the squadron, at about 10 A. M. His fire was continued to 2 o'clock P. M., a little before he was relieved by Captain Mayo, who landed with a fresh supply of shells—Captain A. having exhausted the supply he had brought with him. He lost four sailors killed, and had one officer, Lieut. Baldwin, slightly hurt. The mortar batteries, Nos. 1, 2, and 3, have fired but languidly during the day for the want of shells, which are now going out from the beach.

The two reports of Col. Bankhead, chief of artillery, both of this date, copies of which I enclose, give the incidents of those three batteries.

Battery No. 4, which will mount four 24-pounders and two 8-inch Paixhans guns, has been much delayed in the hands of the indefatigable engineers by the mortar that filled up the work with sand nearly as fast as it could be opened by the unaided laborers. It will, however, doubtless be in full activity early to-morrow morning.

March 25.—The Princeton being about to start for Philadelphia, I have but a moment to continue this report. All the batteries, Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5, are in awful activity this morning. The effects, no doubt, very great, and I think the city cannot hold out long. At 10 o'clock, P. M., this morning many of the new mortars were in position to add their fire, when, after the delay of some two hours, if no proposition to surrender should be received, I shall organize parties for carrying the city by assault. So far the defence has been spirited and obstinate.

I enclose a copy of the memorial received last night, signed by the Committee of Great Britain, France, Spain, and Prussia, within Vera Cruz, asking me to grant a truce to enable the neutrals, together with Mexican women and children, to withdraw from the scene of havoc about them. I shall reply the moment that an opportunity may be taken, to say—1. That a truce can only be granted on the application of Governor Morales, with a view to a surrender; 2. That sending safe-conducts to the different Consuls, beginning as far back as the 13th instant, I distinctly admonished them—particularly the French and Spanish Consuls, and of course, through the two, the other Consuls—of the dangers that have followed; 3. That although, at that date, I had already refused to allow any person whatsoever to pass the line of investment either by land or by sea, yet the blockade had been open to neutrals and other neutrals to pass out to their respective ships of war up to the 22d instant; and, 4th, I shall enclose to the memorialists a copy of my summons to the Governor to show that I had fully considered the impending hardships and distresses of the place, including those of women and children, before one gun had been fired in that direction. The intercourse between the neutral ships of war and the city was stopped at the last mentioned date by Commodore Perry, with my concurrence, which I placed on the ground that that intercourse could not fail to give to the enemy moral aid and comfort.

It will be seen from the memorial that our batteries have already had a terrible effect on the city, (also known through other sources,) and hence the inference that a surrender must soon be proposed.

In haste, I have the honor to remain, sir, with high respect, your most obedient servant,

WINFIELD SCOTT.

Hon. Wm. L. MARCY, Secretary of War.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,

Camp Washington, before Vera Cruz, March 23, 1847.

The undersigned, Major General Scott, general-in-chief of the armies of the United States of America, in addition to the close blockade of the coast and port of Vera Cruz, previously established by the squadron under Commodore Conner, of the navy of the said States, having now fully invested the said city with an overwhelming army, so as to render it impossible for the city to be sustained, and with a view to the speedy enforcement of any kind, and having caused to be established batteries, competent to the speedy reduction of the city, he, the undersigned, deems it due to the courtesies of war in like cases, as well as the rights of humanity, to summon his Excellency the Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the city of Vera Cruz to surrender the said city to the arms of the United States of America, present before the said city.

The undersigned, anxious to spare the beautiful city of Vera Cruz from the imminent hazard of demolition—its gallant defenders from a useless effusion of blood, and its peaceful inhabitants—women and children inclusive—from the inevitable horrors of a triumphant assault, addresses this summons to the intelligence, the gallantry, and patriotism, no less than to the humanity of his Excellency the Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Vera Cruz.

The undersigned is not accurately informed whether both the city of Vera Cruz and the castle of San Juan d'Ulva be under the command of his Excellency, or whether each place has its own independent commander; but he, the undersigned, moved by the considerations adverted to above, may be willing to stipulate that, if the city should by capitulation be garrisoned by a part of his troops, no missile shall be fired from within the city, or from its bastions or walls, upon the castle, unless the castle should previously fire upon the city.

The undersigned has the honor to tender to his distinguished opponent, his Excellency the Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Vera Cruz, the assurance of the high respect and consideration of the undersigned.

WINFIELD SCOTT.

(B.)—TRANSLATION.

The undersigned, Commander General of the free and sovereign State of Vera Cruz, has informed himself of the contents of the note which Major General Scott, general-in-chief of the forces of the United States, has addressed to him under date of to-day, demanding the surrender of this place and castle of Ulva; and, in answer, has to say, that the above-named fortress, as well as this place, depend on his authority; and it being his principal duty, in order to prove worthy of the confidence placed in him by the Government of the nation, to defend both points at all cost, to effect which he counts upon the necessary elements, and will make it good to the last: therefore his Excellency can commence his operations of war in the manner which he may consider most advantageous.

The undersigned has the honor to return to the General-in-chief of the forces of the United States the demonstrations of esteem he may be pleased to honor him with.

God and liberty!

VERA CRUZ, MARCH 23, 1847.

To Major General Scott, general-in-chief of the forces of the United States, situated in sight of this place.

TRANSLATION.

VERA CRUZ, MARCH 24, 1847.

The undersigned, Consul of the different foreign Powers near the Republic of Mexico, moved by the feeling of humanity excited in their hearts by the fruitful results of the bombardment of the city of Vera Cruz yesterday and the day before, have the honor of addressing, collectively, General Scott, commander-in-chief of the army of the United States of the North, to pray him to suspend his hostilities, and to grant a reasonable truce, sufficient to enable their respective comparators to leave the place with their women and children, as well as the Mexican women and children.

The request of the undersigned appears to them too conformable to the existing ideas of civilization, and they too high an opinion of the principles and sentiments of Gen. Scott, not to be full of confidence in the success of this request. They pray him to have the goodness to send back his answer to the *perpetrators*, who are the bearers of this, and to accept the assurances of their respectful consideration.

T. GIFFORD.

Consul de Sa. M. le Roi de Prusse.

A. GLOUX.

Le Consul de Sa. M. le Roi de France.

FILLIPE G. DE ESCALANTE.

El Consul de España.

HENRI D'OLEIRE.

Consul de Sa. M. le Roi de Prusse.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,

Camp Washington, before Vera Cruz, March 23, 1847.

I have this moment received your note of this date, inquiring whether, in my opinion, it may not be a necessary measure of expediency to stop for the present the intercourse heretofore allowed between the neutral vessels of war off this coast and the city and castle of Vera Cruz.

I promptly answer in the affirmative, considering that both places are now blockaded by our squadron under your command, and the city not only invested by the army, but actually under the fire of our land batteries.

The intercourse—the subject of your note—cannot, it seems to me, however neutral in its intended character, on the part of the foreign ships of war present, fail to give the places in question under our fire moral aid and comfort.

With high respect, &c.

WINFIELD SCOTT.

Com. M. C. PERRY, U. S. N., commanding home squadron.

PROPOSITION FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSIONERS.

I have the honor of transmitting to your Excellency the proposition which has this moment been made to me by the *Sociedad de England, France, Spain, and Prussia*, in which they solicit that hostilities may be suspended while the innocent families in this place, who are suffering the ravages of war, be enabled to leave the city, which solicitude claims my support; and, considering it in accordance with the rights of afflicted humanity, I have not hesitated to invite your Excellency to enter into an honorable accommodation with the persons, in which case you will please name three commissioners who may meet at some intermediate point to treat with those of this place upon the terms of the accommodation.

With this motive I renew to your Excellency my attentive consideration. God guard your Excellency, &c.

On account of the sickness of the Commanding General,

JOSE JUAN DE LANDERO.

Major General Scott.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,

VERA CRUZ, MARCH 23, 1847.

Sir: The flag of the United States of America floats triumphantly over the walls of this city and the Castle of San Juan d'Ulva.

Our troops have garrisoned both since 10 o'clock. It is now noon. Brigadier General Worth is in command of the two places.

Articles of capitulation were signed and exchanged, at a late hour, night before the last. I enclose a copy of the document.

I have heretofore reported the principal incidents of the siege up to the 25th instant. Nothing of striking interest occurred till early in the morning of the next day, when I received overtures from General Landero, on whom General Morales had devolved the principal command. A terrible storm of wind and sand made it difficult to communicate with the city, and impossible to refer to Commodore Perry. I was obliged to entertain the proposition alone, or to continue the fire upon a place that had shown a disposition to surrender; for the loss of a day, or perhaps several, could not be permitted. The accompanying papers will show the proceedings and results.

Yesterday, after the mortar had abated, and the commissioners appointed by me early the morning before had again met those appointed by General Landero, Commodore Perry sent ashore his second in command, Captain Aulick, as a commissioner on the part of the navy. Although not included in my specific arrangement made with the Mexican commander, I did not hesitate, with proper courtesy, to desire that Captain Aulick might be duly introduced and allowed to participate in the discussions and acts of the commissioners who had been reciprocally accredited. Hence the preamble to his signature. The original American commissioners were Brevet Brigadier General Worth, Brigadier General Pillow, and Colonel Totten. Four more able or judicious officers could not have been desired.

I have time to add but little more. The remaining details of the siege; the able co-operation of the United States squadron, successively under the command of Commodore Conner and Perry; the admirable conduct of the whole army—regulars and volunteers—I should be happy to dwell upon as they deserve; but the steamer Princeton, with Commodore Conner on board, is under way, and I have commenced organizing an advance into the interior. This may be delayed a few days, waiting the arrival of additional means of transportation. In the mean time, a joint operation, by land and water, will be made upon Alvarado. No lateral expedition, however, shall interfere with the grand movement towards the capital.

In consideration of the great services of Colonel Totten in the siege that has just terminated most successfully, and the importance of his presence at Washington, as the head of the Engineer Bureau, I trust this despatch to his personal care, and beg to commend him to the very favorable consideration of the Department.

I have the honor to remain, sir, with high respect, your most obedient servant,

WINFIELD SCOTT.

Hon. W. L. MARCY, Secretary of War.

Articles of Capitulation of the City of Vera Cruz and the Castle of San Juan d'Ulva.

PUEBLO DE HOJOS,

Without the Walls of Vera Cruz, Saturday,

March 27, 1847.

Terms of capitulation agreed upon by the Commissioners,

General W. J. Worth and G. J. Pillow, and Colonel J. G. Totten, Chief Engineer, on the part of Major General Scott, General-in-chief of the armies of the United States; and Colonel José Gutiérrez de Villanueva, Lieutenant Colonel of Engineers Manuel Robles, and Colonel Pedro de Herrera, commissioners appointed by General of Brigade Don José Juan Landero, commanding in chief Vera Cruz, the castle of San Juan d'Ulva, and their dependencies, for the surrender to the arms of the United States of the said forts, with their armaments, munitions of war, garrisons, and arms.

1. The whole garrison or garrisons to be surrendered to the arms of the United States as prisoners of war the 29th instant at 10 o'clock A. M.; the garrisons to be permitted to march out with all the honors of war, and to lay down their arms to the United States army, and at a point to be agreed upon by the commissioners.

2. Mexican officers shall preserve their arms and private effects, including horses and horse furniture, and to be allowed, regular and irregular officers, as also the rank and file, five days to retire to their respective homes on parole, as herein after prescribed.

3. Coincident with the surrender, as stipulated in article 1st, the Mexican flags of the various forts and stations shall be struck, saluted by their own batteries; and immediately thereafter Fort Santiago and Concepcion and the castle of San Juan d'Ulva occupied by the forces of the United States.

4. The rank and file of the regular portion of the prisoners to be disposed of, after surrender and parole, as their general-in-chief may desire, and the irregular to be permitted to return to their homes; the officers, in regard to all arms and descriptions of force, giving the usual parole that the said rank and file, as well as themselves, shall not serve again until duly exchanged.

5. All the material of war, and all public property of every description found in the city, the castle of San Juan d'Ulva, and their dependencies, to belong to the United States; but the armament of the same (not injured or destroyed in the further prosecution of the actual war) may be considered as liable to be restored to Mexico by a definitive treaty of peace.

6. The sick and wounded Mexicans to be allowed to remain in the city, with such medical officers and attendants and officers of the army as may be necessary to their care and treatment.

7. Absolute protection is solemnly guaranteed to persons in the city, and property; and it is clearly understood that no private building or property is to be taken or used by the forces of the United States without previous arrangement with the owners, and for a fair equivalent.

8. Absolute freedom of religious worship and ceremonies is solemnly guaranteed.

(Signed induplicate.)

W. J. WORTH, Brigadier General.

G. J. PILLOW, Brigadier General.

JOS. G. TOTTON, Col. and Chief Engineer.

JOSE GUTIERREZ DE VILLANUEVA.

PEDRO MANUEL HERRERA.

MANUEL ROBLES.

Captain Aulick—appointed a commissioner by Commodore Perry on behalf of the navy, (the general-in-chief not being able, in consequence of the roughness of the sea, to communicate with the navy until after communications had been exchanged,) and being present by Gen. Scott's invitation, and concurring in the result and approving thereof—hereto affixes his name and signature.

J. H. AULICK, Captain U. S. Navy.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY OF U. S. OF AMERICA,

Camp Washington, before Vera Cruz, March 27, 1847.

Approved and accepted.

WINFIELD SCOTT.

Commander-in-chief U. S. N. forces Gulf of Mexico.

VERA CRUZ, MARCH 27, 1847.

Approved y aceptado.

JOSE JUAN DE LANDERO.

DESPATCHES FROM COMMODORE PERRY.

UNITED STATES STEAMER MISSISSIPPI,

At anchor near Vera Cruz, March 21, 1847.

Sir: I have the honor to inform the Department of my arrival yesterday at this anchorage, and of the transfer of the command of the home squadron to me by Commodore Conner, this morning at 8 o'clock.

With great respect, I am, sir, your obedient servant,

M. C. PERRY,

Commanding Home Squadron.

The Hon. JOHN Y. MASON,

Secretary of the Navy, Washington.

FLAG-SHIP MISSISSIPPI,

Off Vera Cruz, March 25th, 1847.

Sir: The sailing of the Princeton this day for the United States offers me an opportunity of informing the Department that General Scott had, on the 22d instant, the day after I assumed command of the squadron, so far completed the erection of the batteries as to be able to open fire on the city.

In order to give all the force of the batteries to the bombardment of the city, and, on the refusal of the Governor to surrender, of opening his fire at three o'clock of that day.

In conformity with arrangements made in the morning with General Scott, I directed the flotilla of small steamers and gun-boats of the squadron, led by Commander J. Tattall, in the flotilla, to take a position and commence a simultaneous fire upon the city. The order was promptly and gallantly executed, and the fire was kept up with great animation until late in the evening.

On visiting them at their position, I found that the two steamers had nearly exhausted their ammunition, but having received a fresh supply during the night from this ship, they at sunrise moved to a more favorable and advanced point, and resumed and continued their fire until recalled by signal.

At the earnest desire of myself and officers, General Scott generously assigned a position in the trenches, to be mounted with guns from the squadron, and worked by seamen. Three 8-inch Paixhans and three long 32-pounders (all that were required) were consequently landed, and, after immense labor in transporting them through the sand, in which parties from the divisions of Generals Patterson, Worth, and Pillow, respectively detached by those officers, cheerfully participated, the pieces were placed in position and opened upon the city about 10 o'clock yesterday, immediately drawing upon them a sharp fire from the enemy, which in a short time killed and wounded ten of the detachment from the squadron.

In order to give all a chance to serve in the trenches, for the honor of which there is a great though generous strife, I have arranged that detachments from each ship in charge respectively of lieutenants, and the whole commanded by a captain or commander, shall be relieved every twenty-four hours. Captain Aulick, assisted by Commander Mackenzie, and several lieutenants, had the direction of mounting the guns and opening the fire, and with bravery was the duty performed. Captain Mayo is now in charge and will be relieved in turn.

The Ohio arrived on the 22d instant, but, in consequence of a norther, did not reach her proper anchorage until yesterday afternoon. Detachments of boats from all the vessels arrived night and day in landing from the transports the stores and munitions of the army.

Enclosed is a list of the killed and wounded ascertained up to this hour, (12 meridian,) with the report of Captain Aulick; also a list of the small vessels comprising the flotilla of the squadron, all of which were engaged on the 22d instant.

I have the honor to be your most obedient servant,

M. C. PERRY,

Commanding Home Squadron.

Hon. JOHN Y. MASON,

Secretary of the Navy, Washington.

UNITED STATES STEAMER MISSISSIPPI,

Off Sacrificos Island, March 23, 1847.

Sir: I regret to announce the loss of the steamer Hunter, the particulars of which disaster are detailed in the accompanying report of Lieut. McLoughlin.

I had arrived a few hours before, and fortunately, from the admirable qualities of this ship, was enabled to go to the assistance of the three vessels ashore, the moment at early dawn I discovered their distress, though it was blowing at the time a gale.

The boats of this vessel, under the special charge of Capt. Mayo, who volunteered his service, and commanded respectively by Lieuts. Decamp, Alden, and Blunt, and Passed Mid. Fauntleroy, happily rescued every one, more than sixty in number, from the wrecks.

I have the honor to be, your most obedient servant,

M. C. PERRY,

Commanding Home Squadron.

To the Hon. JOHN Y. MASON,

Secretary of the Navy, Washington.

UNITED STATES STEAMER MISSISSIPPI,

Anchor near Vera Cruz, March 26, 1